



PROJECT OVERVIEW

PARTNERING TO SAVE LIVES

OVERVIEW

CARE has worked with the Ministry of Health and Cambodian communities since 1991 to respond to Cambodia's critical health needs. Cambodia has made considerable progress towards the achievement of most of its health related Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and National Strategic Development Plan targets:

MDG 4

Cambodia's overall infant mortality rate had fallen from 66 per 1,000 births in 2005, to 45 deaths in 2010



Photo credit: Josh Estey

MDG 5

Cambodia's maternal mortality rate was estimated to be 206 deaths per 100,000 births, ahead of goal of 250 deaths per 100,000

However, neonatal mortality rates have remained stagnant since 2005 and now accounts for 50% of all deaths of children under five years of age. Further, issues of inequity mean that maternal mortality remains high in some provinces. Evidence indicates that continued improvement in these indicators will only be possible through *rapid scale up*, and a more *strategic prioritisation* and *targeting* of interventions to geographic areas and population groups with the lowest health status and highest incidence of diseases.

This will require concurrent improvements in:

- increasing demand and reducing barriers to access to healthcare, and
- access to, and quality of, health care services.

The AusAID funded Partnering to Save Lives project (PSL) works with frontline health service providers and a range of other partners in the provinces, and directly with some of the hardest to reach and most vulnerable communities with the most critical reproductive, maternal and neonatal health (RMNH) needs. The work of PSL will generate models of service delivery and demand creation that have the potential for scale-up and replication across the country.



Objective:

To save the lives of women and newborns in Cambodia through improved quality, access and utilisation of reproductive, maternal and neonatal health services through a partnership approach.

Timeframe:

2013 – 2018

Location:

Ratanakiri, Mondulakiri, Koh Kong and Phnom Penh provinces

Project Partners:

- AusAID
- Ministry of Health
- Marie Stopes International Cambodia
- Save the Children

Beneficiaries

Health service providers, in particular:

- midwives
- village health support groups members
- Commune Councils
- women of reproductive age, men and neonates

CARE is the only organization in the last 20 years of my working life to work at the grassroots level and who understand the situation of the remote villages.

-Mr. Un Virak, Governor of Thmar Bang District, Koh Kong Province



Photo credit: Josh Estey

Key Activities

Support health facilities to meet and maintain Ministry of Health standards including facility assessments, infection control, equipment and maternal and workplace safety and security for midwives

Strengthen workforce competencies including peer feedback and on the job coaching

Strengthen the referral system between communities and health service providers for emergency and non-emergency cases including support to transport and communication systems

Improve linkages with local authorities and stakeholders

Support reducing financial barriers to access health services by implementing financial schemes that meet the varying health service needs of the target population

Develop and implement a comprehensive behaviour change communication (BCC) strategy

Facilitate community mobilisation and engagement through peer provider and support networks, capacity development of village health support group members and community based distributors

Develop a program-wide learning agenda, supporting evidence based research